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Title: Need to shift the Capital of Maharashtra from Mumbai to Nagpur.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): As per the established principle of economic law, growth usually takes place around an established centre of growth, it is a fact that areas and cities adjoining the new state capitals formed after 1960 have benefitted immensely in terms of development due to their geographical proximity.

Nagpur is the only city in the country which lost its capital status after the formation of new States in 1960. Prior to 1960, Nagpur city held the status of being an ethnic, historical and commercial capital of Central India for more than 300 years. Despite the clear recommendations of the States Reorganization Commission (1955) in favour of creating a separate Vidarbha State with its capital as Nagpur, the Vidarbha region was included as part of Maharashtra thereby relinquishing Nagpur's capital status. The people of Vidarbha were solemnly assured through agreements and constitutional provisions that the importance and status of Nagpur city will be maintained in the future and the Vidarbha region will be developed equitably along with other parts of Maharashtra.

Government's statistics clearly prove that in the past 53 years since the Vidarbha region was merged in Maharashtra State, the natural growth rate of the Nagpur city and the region based on its potential and natural resources has slowed down drastically. In comparison, capital cities formed after 1960 such as Bhopal, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Thiruvananthapuram have benefitted in terms of development and growth. Even the neighbouring city of Raipur which was accorded capital status of Chattisgarh State only 12 years back has rapidly progressed and surpassed Nagpur in all growth parameters.

The people of Vidarbha are seeking justice against the years of neglect and lop-sided development. Therefore, 1 would urge upon the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Central Government to shift the capital of Maharashtra from Mumbai to Nagpur for the next 50 years as this will serve the dual purpose of development of the neglected region of Vidarbha and also help to decongest the already overcrowded city of Mumbai. This will also be in accordance with the policy of decentralization of power as followed by the Central Government. Shifting of capital to Nagpur will bring the people of the region closer to the capital and thereby facilitating good governance, quick redressal of their grievances and micro management of local problems.